

State and Regional Partnerships

1999 ANNUAL REPORT



The Arts Endowment greatly extends its impact through its partnerships with the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies and their seven multi-state regional organizations. In Fiscal Year 1999, Partnership Agreements helped support local, state and regional arts activities for children and adults across the nation. A complete listing of Partnership Agreements is available online at www.arts.gov.

State arts agencies used their federal and state appropriated funds in 1999 to support more than 27,000 projects in over 5,600 communities. Twenty-eight percent of these grants went directly to smaller communities outside major metropolitan areas. Endowment funds for preservation of cultural heritage, developing arts groups, cultural tourism initiatives, artist residencies, after school and summer youth arts programs and other projects helped promote community development through the arts.

For example, citizens of tiny Lake City, Colorado prepared to document the turn of the millennium through the arts. Script-writing sessions involving a playwright and community members will lead to production of a musical and a play based on real characters of Lake City's past. Two ceramic artists worked with 20 people to construct a paper kiln and taught them the basics of tile design and production. They will use their new skills to create a collective tile mural reflecting the area's history.

Fiscal Year 1999 Facts State and Regional Partnerships

Dollar Amount of Partnership
Agreements: **\$33,827,175**

Forty percent of Endowment
grant funds are awarded to state
and regional arts agencies
through these agreements.



The Endowment's arts education partnership with state arts agencies helped bring the benefits of comprehensive arts education to grade K-12 students in over 2,600 communities. Federal and state funds provided for arts curriculum development, collaborations between schools and local arts groups, artist residencies in schools, professional development for artists and teachers, and partnerships with state education departments.

The Connecticut Commission on the Arts' HOT (Higher Order Thinking) Schools© Program, supported by the NEA, uses the arts as a key pathway to

Ida Pearl Davis works on traditional split oak baskets at the 1999 Governor's Regional Conference on the Arts sponsored by the Tennessee Arts Commission. Photo by Timothy Weber, Tennessee Arts Commission

developing higher order thinking skills. The Commission works with 24 schools across the state to involve over 5,000 students and 500 educators from diverse communities. Educators welcome parents into the school and teachers adapt the curriculum to learners' needs. Child-centered education is achieved through strategies such as The Magical Mailbox®, which serves as a repository and distribution point for student writing and artwork. HOT Schools® celebrate student writing at every opportunity.

The Endowment's partnership with state arts agencies is an important source of assistance to other arts organizations in each of the states. The state arts agencies use approximately 46 percent of their combined state and federal grant dollars to fund operations and professional support of their constituent arts organizations. Funds assist performing groups, museums and galleries, small presses and literary organizations, local arts agencies, arts festivals and arts centers and facilities. The Endowment's state partnerships also assist individual artists. State arts agencies awarded grants for artist residencies, performances, fellowships, artwork creation and apprenticeships.

The Endowment also awarded Partnership Agreements to seven regional arts organizations, created to transcend state boundaries and provide access to a greater variety of arts experiences, especially in underserved areas. In 1999 these organizations used NEA funds to support 1,368 touring performances and 2,523 related school or community activities. As an example, the Southern Arts Federation used its Partnership Agreement funds to award \$225,203 to community arts presenters in its nine member states. The Federation's grant-supported programs brought touring performing groups to over 300,000 people.



Through the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts in Hawaii the NEA helped support the Honolulu Theatre for Youth in its production of *The Short Tree & the Bird That Couldn't Sing* by Dennis Foon. Photo by Karl S. Hedberg



The Montana Arts Council's Artists in Schools and Communities program supported a media arts residency in the Hinsdale public schools. Photo courtesy of the Montana Arts Council